

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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May 12, 2020

To: Children's Residential Care Facilities

Re: Blanket waiver of requirement for CRMA re-certification during COVID-19

On March 15, 2020, Governor Janet T. Mills signed a *Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency to Further Protect Public Health* concerning the COVID-19 crisis. The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) recognizes that this crisis has strained staffing levels at Children's Residential Care Facilities (CRCF).

To allow CRCF's more flexibility in providing the required levels of care to residents, this letter constitutes OCFS's blanket waiver of the requirement for CRMA re-certification, as stated in 10-144 Ch. 36 Section 5.N.1.b of the Children's Residential Care Facilities Licensing Rule:

N. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AND STORAGE

1. **Administration of medication.** The facility must ensure that all persons administering medications will be minimally a certified residential medication aide (CRMA) and use safe and acceptable methods and procedures consistent with recognized standards of practice.
 - b. At least one appropriately-licensed or certified staff member must be on shift at all times.

CRMA re-certification classes are not readily available at this time due to COVID -19. Employees with expired CRMA certification may continue to pass medication. This waiver does not negate CRCF's responsibility to ensure that all employee's administering medications within the facility are competent to do so and are following acceptable standards of practice for medication administration.

The effective date of this blanket waiver is March 15, 2020. This blanket waiver will end 60 days after Governor Mills declares the end of the current State of Emergency.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your Children's Residential Licensing Specialist Lynn.ruggieri@maine.gov or Amber.tassinari@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

Janet S. Whitten, MSW, Manager, Children's Licensing and Investigation Services